

more prosperous city. I will never forget my initial visit with Bill at the Toast Café or our talks at Lake Wawasee, discussing the issues facing Indiana's 5th Congressional District and beyond. I want to thank Bill's wife, Ann Hardacre, and the rest of his family for sharing Bill with myself and so many others. He touched our lives and served as a shining example for all those working to make a better life for future generations.

HONORING LISA AND ROB
PATCHEN

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to formally recognize Lisa and Rob Patchen for their outstanding service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue in New Rochelle, New York.

Lisa is a past member of the Nursery School Board and, for several years, has led the synagogue's handprint tile fundraiser, the success of which is evident outside the Nursery School office.

Rob is in his second term as a member of the Board of Trustees, and just recently completed a two-year term as recording secretary. He has also served as the chairman of the Assistant Rabbi Search Committee, the Nominating Committee, Hazzan Search Committee, and is currently an active member of the Families Initiative Committee and the Youth Services Committee.

The pair will be honored by Beth El with the President's Ne'eman Service Award for all they have done to support and serve their local Jewish community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Lisa and Rob Patchen for their service and commitment to Beth El Synagogue.

HONORING BIRMINGHAM FIRE AND
RESCUE CHIEF IVOR J. BROOKS

HON. TERRI A. SEWELL

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. SEWELL of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and legacy of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks who passed away on Wednesday May 28. As we mourn his untimely passing, I am comforted in knowing that his legacy of exemplary public service will bring peace to those affected by this tremendous loss to the State of Alabama.

Chief Brooks was sworn into the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department on May 3, 1982. His illustrious career as a first responder would span more than 30 years. Throughout his tenure, he distinguished himself as a servant leader who worked his way up the ranks of the department. He was appointed the 20th fire chief of the city of Birmingham on November 14, 2007 after 26 years on the job.

This nationally recognized first responder was trained at the National Fire Academy in Maryland and the U.S. Department of Justice

Weapons of Mass Destruction Training Facility of Incident Commanders. He also attended the Alabama Fire College, completed the Personnel Standards Commission, and the Fire Chief's Executive Development Program. Prior to being named fire chief, he served as Incident Commander for the State of Alabama.

During his time at the helm of Alabama's largest fire department, city leaders often commended Chief Brooks for his dedication to building and maintaining a fire department that Birmingham residents could be proud of. His responsible and practical leadership resulted in the revitalization and construction of various new firehouses throughout the city. I have fond memories of working closely with Chief Brooks to secure funding opportunities for improvement projects. He understood that the success of the 700 men and women he ably led was dependent upon securing resources and opportunities to support them in performing their duties.

Throughout his impactful lifetime, Chief Brooks also received numerous awards for his leadership and innovation in the field. But despite his celebrated career, his greatest achievement was his family and his dedication to his faith. Before his death, Chief Brooks served as a trustee on the board of the historic Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham. He was married to Joyce E. Brooks and was the father of four children; Ivon, Nyiah, Ivor, Jr. and Matthew and one grandchild, August Rayne Howell.

On behalf of a grateful nation and state, we salute this American treasure who was committed to protecting and serving the community that he loved. As we seek comfort in the aftermath of his untimely passing, we will forever remember Chief Brooks as an energetic and personable leader that was committed to obtaining the best results for his department. We salute Chief Brooks and pray for his family and his colleagues as we mourn the loss of this American hero. We honor his life and we thank him for his noble contributions to mankind. I ask my colleagues to join me in mourning the passing of Birmingham Fire and Rescue Chief Ivor J. Brooks.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL SHUSTER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 241, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSTON PRIDE
WEEK AND LGBT PRIDE MONTH

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 9, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate LGBT Pride Month and the remarkable progress that has been made in making our country more diverse and tolerant and embracing of differences in the 45 years since the infamous Stonewall Uprising in 1969 in New York City.

Our country made progress with the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," which I was proud to support. Our nation is now stronger and our people are safer thanks to the sacrifices made by these brave Americans, who no longer need to choose between service and silence.

There have been other changes for the better. In July 2011, President Obama and his administration concluded that a critical section of the Defense of Marriage Act is no longer constitutionally defensible. The Supreme Court agreed and on June 26, 2011, handed down the landmark decision in *United States v. Windsor*, 570 U.S. 12 (2013), which struck down Section 3 of DOMA because it violated the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment by treating relationships that had equal status under state law differently under federal law.

That decision accelerated the movement for marriage equality and today 19 states now recognize same-sex marriages.

Mr. Speaker, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, brilliantly shepherded to passage by one of the greatest Texans, President Johnson, which outlawed discrimination in public accommodations, education, and employment on the grounds of race, creed, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The Civil Rights Act has made our country better.

I am pleased to report that progress is being made at the local level as well. Last month, the Houston City Council approved the Houston Equal Rights Ordinance, which extends the right to seek and hold employment, obtain housing, and enjoy public accommodations free from discrimination to all individuals in Houston without regard not just to sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin but also to age, familial status, marital status, military status, disability, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity or pregnancy.

The HERO Ordinance represents another giant step forward in our nation's and my city's continuing efforts to form a more perfect union. I believe the anti-discrimination protections Houstonians now enjoy should be extended to all persons in our country, which can be done this year were Congress to pass the Employee Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).

Although more remains to be done to realize the full promise of America that all are equally treated and protected by the law but it is undeniable that America is closer to realizing that promise than it was during the dark days of Stonewall.

So there is much reason for joy and optimism when my home city of Houston celebrates Houston Pride Week later this month, from June 20–29.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census, the 16th largest LGBT community in the nation is located in the Houston metropolitan area, which I am privileged to represent. This dynamic community is culturally diverse and economically and artistically vibrant.

Houston Pride Week has been an annual event for the last 35 years, since 1979, held to promote the individuality of Houston's ever-growing LGBT community. The Pride Festival and Parade are at the center of the Celebration and are annually attended by more than 400,000 people from Houston and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, progress is made through the efforts of courageous leaders who actively engage their communities and face adversity to